



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor Day ATV Accidents Are Sad Reminders to Keep Safety First

Flagstaff, AZ – The Coconino County Sheriff's Office responded to several ATV Accidents over the Labor Day Weekend. With beautiful fall days still ahead of us and hunting season around the corner, we want to remind everyone to keep safety a priority while in the outdoors.

On September 3, 2006 the Sheriff's Office responded to an ATV accident in the Cinder Lakes Off-Highway Recreation Area north of Flagstaff. A 12 year old male sustained serious injuries after losing control of his ATV at a high rate of speed. He was wearing a helmet. The juvenile was air evacuated to Flagstaff Medical Center by DPS Ranger.

Also on September 3, 2006 a 16 year old female and 10 year old male were involved in a serious ATV Accident off of Schnebly Hill Road and Forest Service Road 153E south of Flagstaff. The younger male was sitting behind the female on the ATV. After the ATV left the roadway, the driver swerved to avoid hitting a tree. The male lost his balance and was struck in the face and chest by the tree. Both were wearing helmets. The male was transported to Flagstaff Medical Center by Guardian Medical, but was later pronounced deceased.

Both of these cases are still being investigated by the Sheriff's Office.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Parents need to be aware of children's activities and rules and regulations for Off Road Vehicle activities, including the appropriate safety gear, recommended ages for riding certain machines, and regulations on riding double. ATV's are not toys and should be treated with the same respect as any other motor vehicle. Other adults should also ride responsibly around camps, children, and residential areas. For any activity, always tell a responsible party where you are going and when you will return, even for short outings. Avoid being in a hurry. Again, safety is everyone's responsibility.

For information on ATV regulations and how you can safely plan for outdoor activities, please visit our website at www.coconino.az.gov/sheriff.aspx. The section on Citizen Services has a copy of our ATV regulations brochure. The section on Search and Rescue also provides some safety reminders when you plan to spend time in the outdoors.

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